

Claims

[0085] What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computer-implemented method for processing a stored document,
2 comprising:
3 receiving an image of a document index;
4 locating, on the document index image, an image of a first sticker specify-
5 ing an action;
6 identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker
7 on the document index page; and
8 performing the specified first action on the identified first document.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first action sticker comprises a re-
2 movable self-adhesive sticker.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first document is part of a stored
2 collection, and wherein the index comprises a collection coversheet.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the collection coversheet comprises a
2 collection overview.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plu-
2 rality of representations of documents, and wherein identifying a first document
3 based on the location of the action sticker comprises identifying a first document
4 corresponding to a document representation overlapped by the first action
5 sticker.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plu-
2 rality of representations of documents, and wherein identifying a first document
3 based on the location of the first action sticker comprises identifying a first
4 document based on proximity of the first action sticker to one of the document
5 representations.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plu-
2 rality of representations of documents, and wherein identifying a first document
3 based on the location of the first action sticker comprises identifying a document
4 pointed to by the first action sticker.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the document index comprises a plurality of representations of docu-
3 ments;
4 the first action sticker comprises an action point; and

5 identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker
6 comprises identifying a first document based on proximity of
7 the action point of the first action sticker to one of the document
8 representations.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein:
2 the document index comprises a plurality of representations of docu-
3 ments;
4 the first action sticker comprises an action point; and
5 identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker
6 comprises:
7 determining a coordinate location for the action point;
8 determining a coordinate location for at least one of the document
9 representations; and
10 identifying a first document by comparing the coordinate location
11 for the action point with the coordinate location for the at
12 least one document representation.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a list
2 of documents.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plu-
2 rality of thumbnail depictions of documents.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plu-
2 rality of icons representing documents.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the specified first action comprises
2 one selected from the group consisting of:

3 printing;
4 e-mailing;
5 faxing;
6 grouping;
7 reordering;
8 playing;
9 ungrouping; and
10 deleting.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the specified first action comprises
2 specifying an access level for the first document.

1 21. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker speci-
3 fying a second action;
4 identifying a second document based on the location of the second action
5 sticker on the document index page; and
6 performing the specified second action on the identified second docu-
7 ment.

1 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
2 prior to performing the specified first action, retrieving the identified first
3 document from a storage device; and
4 prior to performing the specified second action, retrieving the identified
5 second document from a storage device.

1 23. The method of claim 1, wherein the first sticker specifies a grouping
2 action, the method further comprising:
3 locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker speci-
4 fying a grouping action; and
5 identifying a second document based on the location of the second action
6 sticker on the document index page;
7 and wherein performing the specified first action comprises grouping the
8 first identified document and the second identified document.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein grouping the first identified docu-
2 ment and the second identified document comprises forming a sub-collection
3 comprising the first identified document and the second identified document.

1 25. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker indi-
3 cating the same document as the first sticker, the second sticker
4 specifying a second action;
5 determining an order for performing the first action and the second ac-
6 tion; and
7 performing the second specified action on the identified document;

8 wherein the first and second actions are performed according to the de-
9 termined order.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein determining an order comprises
2 sorting according to a predetermined sequence of actions.

1 27. The method of claim 1, wherein the specified first action comprises
2 transmitting the identified first document to a destination, the method further
3 comprising:
4 determining a destination.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein determining a destination comprises
2 receiving user input specifying a destination.

1 29. The method of claim 27, wherein determining a destination comprises
2 reading an indicator of a destination from the image of the document index.

1 30. The method of claim 27, wherein determining a destination comprises
2 reading an indicator of a destination from the first action sticker.

1 31. The method of claim 27, wherein determining a destination comprises
2 determining at least one selected from the group consisting of:

3 an e-mail address;
4 a fax number;
5 a uniform resource locator;
6 a telephone number; and
7 a mailing address.

1 32. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an image of a document in-
2 dex comprises scanning the document index.

1 33. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an image of a document in-
2 dex comprises receiving an e-mail message comprising the image of the docu-
3 ment index.

1 34. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an image of a document in-
2 dex comprises receiving a fax message comprising the image of the document
3 index.

1 35. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified
2 action by reading the first action sticker.

1 36. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified
2 action by performing optical character recognition on the first action sticker.

1 37. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified
2 action by determining a shape of the first action sticker.

1 38. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified
2 action by determining a color of the first action sticker.

1 39. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified
2 action by reading a machine-readable icon on the first action sticker.

1 40. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises an
2 identifier specifying a storage location, the method further comprising, prior to
3 performing the specified first action:

4 retrieving the identified first document from the specified storage loca-
5 tion.

1 41. The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to performing the
2 specified first action, retrieving the identified first document from a storage de-
3 vice.

1 42. A computer-implemented method for processing a stored document,
2 comprising:
3 receiving an image of a document index;
4 locating, on the document index image, an image of a sticker;
5 identifying a first document based on the location of the sticker on the
6 document index page;
7 receiving input specifying an action; and
8 performing the specified action on the identified document.

1 43. The method of claim 42, wherein receiving input specifying an action
2 comprises receiving input via a user interface.

1 44. A computer program product for processing a stored document, com-
2 prising:
3 a computer-readable medium; and
4 computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:

5 receiving an image of a document index;
6 locating, on the document index image, an image of a first sticker
7 specifying an action;
8 identifying a first document based on the location of the first action
9 sticker on the document index page; and
10 performing the specified first action on the identified first docu-
11 ment.

1 45. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the first action
2 sticker comprises a removable self-adhesive sticker.

1 46. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the first docu-
2 ment is part of a stored collection, and wherein the index comprises a collection
3 coversheet.

1 47. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the collection
2 coversheet comprises a collection overview.

1 48. The computer program product of claim 47, wherein the collection
2 overview comprises a plurality of thumbnail depictions of documents.

1 49. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the collection
2 coversheet comprises a machine-readable collection identifier specifying a stor-

3 age location for the collection, the computer program product further comprising
4 computer program code, encoded on the medium, for, prior to performing the
5 specified first action:

6 retrieving the identified first document from the specified storage loca-
7 tion.

1 50. The computer program product of claim 46, further comprising com-
2 puter program code, encoded on the medium, for modifying the stored collec-
3 tion.

1 51. The computer program product of claim 50, further comprising com-
2 puter program code, encoded on the medium, for generating an updated collec-
3 tion coversheet.

1 52. The computer program product of claim 46, further comprising com-
2 puter program code, encoded on the medium, for storing a new version of the
3 collection.

1 53. The computer program product of claim 52, further comprising com-
2 puter program code, encoded on the medium, for generating an updated collec-
3 tion coversheet including a collection identifier specifying a location for the new
4 version.

1 54. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the specified first
2 action comprises one selected from the group consisting of:
3 printing;
4 e-mailing;
5 faxing;
6 grouping;
7 reordering;
8 playing;
9 ungrouping; and
10 deleting.

1 55. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the specified first
2 action comprises specifying an access level for the first document.

1 56. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the first sticker
2 specifies a grouping action, the computer program product further comprising
3 computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:
4 locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker speci-
5 fying a grouping action; and
6 identifying a second document based on the location of the second action
7 sticker on the document index page;

8 and wherein the computer program code for performing the specified first
9 action comprises computer program code for grouping the first identified docu-
10 ment and the second identified document.

1 57. The computer program product of claim 56, wherein the computer
2 program code for grouping the first identified document and the second identi-
3 fied document comprises computer program code for forming a sub-collection
4 comprising the first identified document and the second identified document.

1 58. The computer program product of claim 44, further comprising com-
2 puter program code, encoded on the medium, for:

3 locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker indi-
4 cating the same document as the first sticker, the second sticker
5 specifying a second action;

6 determining an order for performing the first action and the second ac-
7 tion; and

8 performing the second specified action on the identified document;

9 wherein the first and second actions are performed according to the de-
10 termined order.

1 59. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the specified first
2 action comprises transmitting the identified first document to a destination, the

3 computer program product further comprising computer program code, en-
4 coded on the medium, for:
5 determining a destination.

1 60. The computer program product of claim 44, further comprising com-
2 puter program code, encoded on the medium, for determining the specified ac-
3 tion by reading the first action sticker.

1 61. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the document
2 index comprises an identifier specifying a storage location, the computer pro-
3 gram product further comprising, computer program code, encoded on the me-
4 dium, for, prior to performing the specified first action:
5 retrieving the identified first document from the specified storage loca-
6 tion.

1 62. The computer program product of claim 44, further comprising, com-
2 puter program code, encoded on the medium, for, prior to performing the speci-
3 fied first action, retrieving the identified first document from a storage device.

1 63. A system for processing a stored document, comprising:
2 a document index input device, for receiving an image of a document in-
3 dex;

4 a sticker locator, coupled to the document input index device, for locating,
5 on the document index image, an image of a first sticker specifying
6 an action;
7 a document identifier, coupled to the sticker locator, for identifying a first
8 document based on the location of the first action sticker on the
9 document index page; and
10 a document processor, coupled to the document identifier, for performing
11 the specified first action on the identified first document.

1 64. The system of claim 63, wherein the first action sticker comprises a
2 removable self-adhesive sticker.

1 65. The system of claim 63, wherein the first document is part of a stored
2 collection, and wherein the index comprises a collection coversheet.

1 66. The system of claim 65, wherein the collection coversheet comprises a
2 collection overview.

1 67. The system of claim 66, wherein the collection overview comprises a
2 plurality of thumbnail depictions of documents.

1 68. The system of claim 65, wherein the collection coversheet comprises a
2 machine-readable collection identifier specifying a storage location for the collec-
3 tion, the system further comprising:

4 a document retriever, coupled to the document identifier, for retrieving
5 the identified first document from the specified storage location.

1 69. The system of claim 65, wherein the document processor modifies the
2 stored collection.

1 70. The system of claim 69, further comprising a coversheet generator,
2 coupled to the document processor, for generating an updated collection cover-
3 sheet.

1 71. The system of claim 65, further comprising a storage device, coupled
2 to the document processor, for storing a new version of the collection.

1 72. The system of claim 71, further comprising a coversheet generator,
2 coupled to the document processor, for generating an updated collection cover-
3 sheet including a collection identifier specifying a location for the new version.

1 73. The system of claim 63, wherein the specified first action comprises
2 one selected from the group consisting of:
3 printing;

4 e-mailing;
5 faxing;
6 grouping;
7 reordering;
8 playing;
9 ungrouping; and
10 deleting.

1 74. The system of claim 63, wherein the specified first action comprises
2 specifying an access level for the first document.

1 75. The system of claim 63, wherein the first sticker specifies a grouping
2 action, wherein:
3 the sticker locator locates, on the document index image, an image of a
4 second sticker specifying a grouping action; and
5 the document identifier identifies a second document based on the loca-
6 tion of the second action sticker on the document index page;
7 and
8 the document processor groups the first identified document and the sec-
9 ond identified document.

1 76. The system of claim 75, wherein the document processor groups the
2 first identified document and the second identified document by forming a sub-
3 collection comprising the first identified document and the second identified
4 document.

1 77. The system of claim 63, wherein:
2 the sticker locator locates, on the document index image, an image of a
3 second sticker indicating the same document as the first sticker,
4 the second sticker specifying a second action; and
5 the document processor determines an order for performing the first ac-
6 tion and the second action, and performs the second specified
7 action on the identified document according to the determined
8 order.

1 78. The system of claim 63, wherein the document index comprises an
2 identifier specifying a storage location, the system further comprising:
3 a document retriever, coupled to the document identifier, for retrieving
4 the identified first document from the specified storage location.

1 79. The system of claim 63, further comprising:
2 a document retriever, coupled to the document identifier, for retrieving
3 the identified first document from a storage device.